

Tower Grove Park Shelter Twenty-one
(Chinese Pavilion)
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-P

HABS
MO,
96-SALV,
46P-

PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

ADD'L
FOLLOWS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1137-P

TOWER GROVE PARK SHELTER TWENTY-ONE
(CHINESE PAVILION)

Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The "Chinese Shelter" lies 500 yards west of the Grand Boulevard gate, on the south side of the main drive, within the original boundaries of Tower Grove Park.

USGS Cahokia Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.739800.4276350

Present Owner: City of St. Louis.

Present Use: Public picnic shelter.

Significance: The structure is a well-preserved example of the picturesque and eclectic design favored by British and American landscape architects in the nineteenth century. One of the most stylistically pure of the Park structures, it is the only shelter with a rectangular plan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Spring-summer 1873 (Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers 1/73 - 7/73).
2. Architects: Henry Thiele (TGP Receipts and Vouchers 1/73 - 7/73, 5/22/73 payment). For Biographical information, see HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: The City of St. Louis. For property description, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Architect Thiele supervised construction (TGP Receipts and Vouchers 1/73 - 7/73, payment 5/22/73). Herman Michels built the structure for \$474 (TGP Comptroller's Report 1868, p.204, 4/6/73). The St. Louis firm of Hull and Cozens put the ornamental roof on it for \$356.47 (Comp. 1868, p.206, 6/2/73). This was gilded by Jackett, McFall, and Co., for \$19 (Comp. 1868, p.210, 7/12/73). The lumber was supplied by Philibert and Johannung of St. Louis (Comp. 1868, p.212, 7/29/73).

HABS
MO,
96-SALV
46P-

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This rectangular pavilion is one of the most stylistically pure structures in Tower Grove Park. Six pairs of columns support the ribbed hipped roof, which has oriental decorations.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular, 18'-6" (two-bay north front) by 9' (one bay) 17'-9" high to flat roof top, one story.
2. Foundations: The cedar columns are carried on stone blocks, and the corner columns have pedestals of reinforced concrete.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: There are six pairs of cedar columns, painted dark green. They have octagonal bases, round moldings and round shafts. They carry flat ornamental plates and brackets painted light green. Pendentive wooden tracery painted a chocolate brown, hangs below the cornice, which is painted light green.
4. Structural system: Wooden framing.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: The oriental ribbed hipped roof of metal is painted red with round ribs painted gold. The eight corners of the roof have metal dragon figures painted black. The gutters are red, and the top cornice is white.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Above the column plates and below the beveled cornice is a 9"-deep overhang of pendentive tracery in a flat leaf pattern. The eaves are 2'-6" wide, carried by the brackets above the columns.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Open rectangular plan.
2. Flooring: Earth.
3. Ceiling: Tongue and groove wood painted white.

- D. Site: The long sides face north and south. The structure is shaded by deciduous trees and stands 500 yards west of Grand Boulevard entrance on the south side of the main drive.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
July, 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983. -

ADDENDUM TO
TOWER GROVE PARK, SHELTER TWENTY-ONE
(TOWER GROVE PARK, CHINESE PAVILION)
4255 Arsenal Street
Saint Louis City
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-P

HABS
MO,
96-SALU,
46-P-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013